



## Prevention and management of health hazards related to heatwaves

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**Year:** 2009  
**Journal:** International Journal of Circumpolar Health. 68 (1): 22-Aug

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### Abstract:

**OBJECTIVES:** The general aim of the EuroHEAT project was to improve public health responses to weather extremes and, in particular, to heatwaves. **STUDY DESIGN:** The public health responses were developed on the basis of the overall results from the two-year project, "Improving Public Health Responses to Extreme Weather--EuroHEAT," co-funded by the European Commission (DG Sanco). **METHODS:** A literature review was carried out and a questionnaire was administered to health officials in charge of heat-health action plans in 2005 to survey existing heat-health action plans in Europe, and to identify models of the good practices for national/local preparedness planning. **RESULTS:** The adverse health effects of heatwaves are largely preventable. Prevention requires a range of actions at different levels: from health system preparedness coordinated with meteorological early warning systems to timely public and medical advice and improvements to housing and urban planning. These actions can be integrated in a defined heat-health action plan. Guidance for the development of heat-health action plans has been made available through EuroHEAT and is being used in various countries in the European Region. **CONCLUSIONS:** EuroHEAT recommends developing and implementing heat-health action plans at the national and regional levels in Europe to prevent, react upon and contain heat-related risks to health.

**Source:** Ask your librarian to help locate this item.

### Resource Description

#### Communication:

resource focus on research or methods on how to communicate or frame issues on climate change; surveys of attitudes, knowledge, beliefs about climate change

A focus of content

#### Communication Audience:

audience to whom the resource is directed

Health Professional, Public

**Other Communication Audience:** Media

#### Early Warning System:

resource focus on systems used to warn populations of high temperatures, extreme weather, or other elements of climate change to prevent harm to health

# Climate Change and Human Health Literature Portal

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## **Exposure :**

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Air Pollution, Extreme Weather Event, Temperature

**Air Pollution:** Interaction with Temperature, Ozone, Particulate Matter

**Extreme Weather Event:** Drought, Flooding

**Temperature:** Extreme Heat, Fluctuations

## **Geographic Feature:**

resource focuses on specific type of geography

Urban

## **Geographic Location:**

resource focuses on specific location

Non-United States

**Non-United States:** Europe

## **Health Co-Benefit/Co-Harm (Adaption/Mitigation):**

specification of beneficial or harmful impacts to health resulting from efforts to reduce or cope with greenhouse gases

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## **Health Impact:**

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Cardiovascular Effect, Infectious Disease, Injury, Morbidity/Mortality, Respiratory Effect, Other Health Impact

**Infectious Disease:** Foodborne/Waterborne Disease

**Foodborne/Waterborne Disease:** Salmonellosis

**Other Health Impact:** Heatstroke

## **Intervention:**

strategy to prepare for or reduce the impact of climate change on health

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## **Medical Community Engagement:**

resource focus on how the medical community discusses or acts to address health impacts of climate change

A focus of content

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## **Mitigation/Adaptation:**

mitigation or adaptation strategy is a focus of resource

Adaptation

**Population of Concern:** A focus of content

## **Population of Concern:**

populations at particular risk or vulnerability to climate change impacts

Children, Elderly, Low Socioeconomic Status, Workers

**Other Vulnerable Population:** Social isolation; Pre-existing medical conditions

## **Resource Type:**

format or standard characteristic of resource

Research Article, Review

## **Timescale:**

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified